

## Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 NSCE-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 EB-07 AID-05

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 AGR-05 /092 W

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R 251136Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2446

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CE,KN, CH, CB

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S SON VISITS NORTH KOREA AND PRC

1. SUMMARY: VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER'S SON, ANURA BANDARANAIKE, TO NORTH KOREA AND PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) ENDED MARCH 23 WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF RS. 7 MILLION GIFT FROM DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK) TO GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA (GSL) FOR FOOD DRIVE. ANURA ALSO CONFIRMED GSL-DPRK AGREEMENT TO "FORGET THE PAST" AND RESUME FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IMMEDIATELY. QUESTION ON RESIDENCE DPRK AMBASSADOR WILL BE RAISED IN 1976. ANURA REPORTED KIM IL SUNG SEEKS MEMBERSHIP IN NON-ALIGNED GROUP AND WANTS TO REPRESENT DPRK AT 1976 NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO. IN WAKE OF WARM RECEPTION AND REPORTED THREE-HOUR MEETING WITH KIM IL SUNG, ANURA PRAISED NORTH KOREAN ACHIEVEMENTS EFFUSIVELY AND DECLARED

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VISIT DISPROVES ALLEGATIONS OF HIS "REACTIONARY"

TENDENCIES. SUBSEQUENT VISIT TO PRC INCLUDED INTER-VIEWS WITH CHOU EN-LAI AND PRINCE SIHANOUK. TRIP RECEIVED HEAVY LOCAL PRESS PLAY. MANDATE TO NEGOTIATE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS PROBLEM WITH NORTH KOREA PROBABLY REFLECTS PRIME MINISTER'S CAMPAIGN TO RAISE ANURA'S PUBLIC IMAGE, ESPECIALLY AMONG LEFTISTS. END SUMMARY.

2. GSL-DPRK RELATIONS: ANURA BANDARANAIKE ANNOUNCED, ON HIS RETURN TO SRI LANKA MARCH 23 FROM 17-DAY VISIT TO PRC AND NORTH KOREA, AGREEMENT WITH DPRK TO EXCHANGE RESIDENT AMBASSADORS PROBABLY IN 1976. DPRK AMBASSADOR TO NEW DELHI AND GSL AMBASSADOR TO PEKING WILL BE CONCURRENTLY ACCREDITED IN MEANTIME. ANURA DECLARED GSL AND DPRK WILL "FORGET THE PAST", WHICH PRESUMABLY COVERS GSL'S STRONG SUSPICIONS OF DPRK SUPPORT FOR 1971 INSURGENCY AND RESULTING EXPULSION OF NORTH KOREAN MISSION FROM COLOMBO. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THOUGH NEVER BROKEN, HAD BEEN SUSPENDED EVER SINCE. DPRK WILL PROVIDE RS 7 MILLION IN TRACTORS, WATER PUMPS, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT FORR GSL'S FOOD PRODUCTION DRIVE. THERE IS NO INDICATION WHETHER FUTURE EXCHANGE OF RESIDENT AMBASSADORS IS DEPENDENT ON SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING TRADE BALANCE. GSL CLAIMS DPRK OWES IT.

3. DPRK'S NON-ALIGNED MEMBERSHIP BID: IN THREE-HOUR SESSION WITH ANURA, KIM IL SUNG REPORTEDLY SOLICITED GGL'S SUPPORT FOR DPRK'S MEMBERSHIP IN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. KIM INFORMED ANURA HE MIGHT LEAD DELEGATION TO COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT SCHEDULED FOR 1976 IF DPRK'S ADMISSION APPROVED. "CEYLON DAILY MIRROR" OF MARCH 24 REPORTS GSL WILL VIEW APPLICATION "SYMPATHETICALLY" AT PREPARATORY MEETING IN PERU.

4. DPRK RED CARPET TREATMENT OF ANURA: PRESS REPORTS AND ANURA CONFIRMS DPRK'S RED-CARPET TREATMENT FOR SRI LANKA PRIME MINISTER'S SON DURING MARCH VISIT. REPORTEDLY ENTHUSIASTIC AIRPORT RECEPTION, (INCLUDING PRESENCE OF VICE PRESIDENT KANG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RYANG UK AND MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE, AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS), STATE BANQUET GIVEN BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, AND LENGTHY MEETING WITH KIM IL SUNG RECEIVED HEAVY PRESS COVERAGE IN SRI LANKA.

5. VISIT TO PRC: ANURA'S STOP-OFF IN PEKING FOLLOWING NORTH KOREA VISIT PRODUCED PRC

DONATION OF 350 WATER PUMPS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT, BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH CHOU EN-LAI, AND SIGHTSEEING OPPORTUNITY. ANURA DELIVERED LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE TO CHOU AND ON BASIS OF HOSPITAL VISIT JUDGED CHOU'S HEALTH TO BE IMPROVING AS RESULT REDUCED WORKLOAD. ANURA ALSO CONFERRED WITH PRINCE SIHANOUK, WHO DECLARED INTENTION TO LEAD CAMBODIAN DELEGATION TO COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. SIHANOUK TOOK OCCASION TO DENY UNSPECIFIED REPORTS IN "AMERICAN-CONTROLLED" SOUTH ASIA PRESS THAT SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIAN INSURGENTS VIOLATED BUDDHIST NON-VIOLENCE PRECEPTS. HE ALSO TOLD ANURA GRUNK FOREIGN MINISTER SARINN CHHAK WOULD VISIT SRI LANKA ON APRIL 2 HILE ON TOUR OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

6. COMMENT: ANURA'S DISCLOSURE HE HAD PRIME MINISTER'S BLESSING TO NEGOTIATE SENSITIVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ISSUE IN PYONGYANG REINFORCES BELIEF MRS BANDARANAIKE PREFERS ANURA OVER SON-IN-LAW KUMAR RUPASINGHE IN THEIR COMPETITION FOR POLITICAL INFLUENCE. BY MAKING ANURA GSL'S REP IN RENEWING DPRK LINKS, MRS BANDARANAIKE PROBABLY INTENDED COUNTER WIDESPREAD IMPRESSION (NOT ONLY AMONG LEFTISTS) THAT ANURA HAS RECENTLY MOVED TOWARD CENTER AND RIGHT-WING OF UF SPECTRUM. PRESS REPORTS FEATURING ANURA POSING WITH KIM IL SUNG, SIHANOUK, AND CHOU EN-LAI, PLUS STORY THAT CHOU EN-LAI SUPPORTS ANURA'S INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP OF SLFP YOUTH MOVMENT, ALSO AID IN THAT EFFORT. ANURA WAS QUICK TO PRAISE NORTH KOREA AS "FAST BECOMING ONE OF MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD" AND MARVELED AT PYONGYANG'S RECOVERY FROM "COMPLETE DESTRUCTION" BY U.S. BOMBING. ANURA TOLD PRESS UPON RETURN THAT VISIT DISPROVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHARGES AGAINST HIM OF REACTIONARY TENDENCIES, NOTING THAT IF HE WERE REACTIONARY HE WOULD HAVE VISITED SOUTH KOREA, AMERICAN "AMBASSADOR" IN PEKING, AND TAIWAN INSTEAD OF NORTH KOREA, SIHANOUK, AND PRC.

7. RENEWED GSL-DPRK TIES AND TALK WITH SIHANOUK UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO REFLECT PRIME MINISTER'S DESIRE TO BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH AS MANY NATIONAS AS POSSIBLE BEFORE 1976 NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO. IMPACT ON REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S SMALL TRADE MISSION HERE IS UNCLEAR, BUT ANY ROK BID FOR FULL TIES WILL PROBABLY BE CONTINGENT ON HOW DPRK-GSL RELATIONS PROGRESS OVER NEXT YEAR. ROK REPORTEDLY NOW PLANS TO PROCEED WITH MODEST EXPANSION OF TRADE TIES, IF GSL APPROVES, AND ROK TRADE REPRESENTATIVE PLANS ANNOUNCE LATER THIS WEEK GIFT OF SONJ 100 PUMPS FOR PRIME MINISTER'S FOOD DRIVE. VANHOLLEN

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